

From: Nancy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/30/01 4:20pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

THE PRESENT PROPOSAL FOR MICROSOFT'S SETTLEMENT IS THE EQUIVALENT OF ALLOWING ALL DRIVER'S EDUCATION AUTOS TO BE FITTED WITH DEFECTIVE FIRESTONE TIRES, TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER BRANDS, AND THEN EXPECTING THE SCHOOLS SYSTEM TO PAY FOR THE FIXES THAT WILL BE NECESSARY. IT ISN'T A PENALTY- IT'S A GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR AN ABUSIVE COMPANY.

I am a long-time computer user [since 1984] and feel it necessary to protest the present proposal for Microsoft to donate software/computers to schools- This merely extends MS's monopoly into the future , with even broader control than that which prompted the lawsuits in the first place.

: Microsoft is infamous for producing "rough-cut" software- things that do not function properly- and then charging for upgrades, support and patches to fix whatever the problem is-

They are also infamous for providing things that CAN'T be upgraded- and then charging exorbitant amounts for updated changes-e.g. Windows Millenium- was touted as the next generation- It turns out that this system cannot be upgraded to Windows 2000 or any other subsequent upgrade- it is an evolutionary deadend, composed of bits and pieces of previous operating systems, including outdated programs, drivers, and code.

Window XP promises to be just as problematic- or more so. It was sold as the latest and best- as it turns out, there are no drivers available for a wide variety of programs that ran under Windows 95/98- the customers who paid upwards of \$500 for this O/S will just have to wait- this is fraud.

The Microsoft strategy is to let the consumer find all the bugs for free, and then pay Microsoft to have them fixed- TO INTRODUCE THIS KIND OF CONFUSION INTO A SCHOOL SYSTEM is ridiculous, not to mention the hidden costs of sorting out the problems when they have proliferated across a school intranet.

AND then there's security-

Consumers should not end up having to pay, either through hidden school costs, or bloated retail prices, for an inferior product just because it dominates the marketplace- that is precisely why Microsoft should not be allowed any possibility of further domination in the future- it's time for alternatives, Linux being one of them.

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